

# CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Jan. 29, 2001

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CLEAN UP AND SURPLUS

CHS offices in Frankfort will have a clean-up day on Friday, Feb. 9. Trash barrels will be placed around the complex.

On Monday, Feb. 12, there will be a surplus property day. Please surplus any unnecessary items and clear hallways.

Offices are asked to submit lists of surplus items and tag numbers to Tootie Brown in POMB by Feb. 7.



TIP OF  
THE  
WEEK

Low back pain is a common problem for those people who sit for long periods of time. Experts recommend when sitting to keep your knees slightly above your hips to reduce your risk of back pain. To do this, place your feet flat on the floor while you are sitting and make sure your knees are above your hips. If not, rest your feet on a book or low stool. This will help ease the pressure on your lower back.

## CHS Strategic Planning Starts

The Cabinet for Health Services has launched a strategic planning process that will empower every CHS employee to provide better service to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

This process is required as part of legislation approved by the 2000 General Assembly (House Bill 502). The resulting strategic plan, which will map out the cabinet's goals and objectives for several years, will be focused on Gov. Paul Patton's goal to "set Kentucky on the path toward achieving economic opportunity and raise the standard of living above the national average in 20 years."

To achieve this goal, the Governor has identified five public policy initiatives on which state government will focus. Those initiatives are: promoting economic development, improving education, building self-sustaining families, strengthening efficiency and operations of government and reducing crime and its costs to society.

Secretary Jimmy Helton emphasized that, since good health is vital

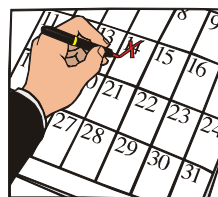
for all citizens, the work done by our Cabinet is key to achieving the Governor's goal. He also added that the cabinet's strategic plan is a critical issue because our budget will be based on this plan.

A planning team of about 35 employees representing all departments and offices has already begun work toward development of the plan, which must be submitted later this year as part of the cabinet's budget request.

The CHS plan will:

- State the cabinet's mission.
- Identify goals for the next four years.
- Specify objectives for meeting those goals, and
- Define performance indicators to measure progress toward meeting its goals.

Our planning team will be soliciting input from all CHS employees as the plan is developed, through such methods as small group discussions and e-mail surveys. Watch the CHS Checkup for the names of your agency's team members, and be sure to share your ideas with them.



## More Funds Approved For IMPACT Plus

The General Assembly's budget committee approved a \$10 million appropriation increase request by MH/MR for the IMPACT Plus program on Jan. 25. IMPACT Plus provides services in commu-

nity settings to Medicaid eligible children with behavioral problems who are in institutions or at risk of such placement. MH/MR works in conjunction with DMS and CBS to serve these children.



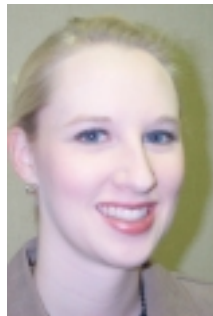
## College Interns Gain Experience With Health Services

Two college interns are spending the spring semester working for the Cabinet for Health Services.

Penny Cline, a Centre College senior, and Brandy Garth, a Lindsey Wilson College senior, are working through a new program sponsored by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities.

Cline, an international relations major from Wausau, Wis., is working for the Office of Program Support. She has been conducting research on how states are complying with a court ruling on services for people with mental retardation and the aging population. She's also attended some legislative meetings.

"The work I've done has been pretty challenging," Cline said. "It's interesting to see how people



Cline



Garth

approach things and how things work."

Garth, a biology major, is working in the Division of Mental Health and has worked on a task force on last year's House Bill 843 – the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Illness, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Disorders, and Dual Diagnosis. The Huntsville, Ala., native is majoring in biology and wants to be a doctor.

"I want to go to medical school and this work helps me learn more about mental health and how to treat patients," Garth said.

The internship program requires students to work 30 hours a week for a state agency and complete two academic seminars.

Thirteen students from eight of Kentucky's 19 independent colleges were chosen for the first AIKCU Frankfort Semester Administrative Internship Program. Selection was based on applicants' interest in government, their academic background and a desire for an administrative employment experience while still in college. Current plans call for that internship to be offered again beginning in January 2002.



## Aging Services Returns To HR Complex

The Office of Aging Services recently returned to the fifth floor of the Human Resources Complex.

During the renovation, Aging employees were temporarily located at 100 Fair Oaks, sharing the fourth floor with the MH/MR.

Not only were Aging employees able to work at a distance from the daily renovation processes, but MH/MR staff made them feel welcome. "We had very good neighbors at Fair Oaks, but we are also glad to be back in our permanent location," said Jerry

Whitley, executive director of the Office of Aging Services.

On their return, staff found a brighter, better-planned workspace awaiting them. "We appreciate the work of the Procurement and Operational Management Branch in providing a professional work environment," said Whitley.

The Office of Aging Services is now located on the fifth floor in the center of the HR Complex to the left as you exit the elevators. Their new mail stop is 5C-D.



## Two CHS Employees Die

Two CHS employees recently died.

Betty Lunsford, 76, an employee in the Office of Aging Services, died Jan. 16 after a brief illness. Lunsford worked in the State Health Insurance Program area and provided assistance to Kentucky senior citizens.

Libby Bates-Limle, 26, an employee in the Department for Public Health, died Jan. 19 following an illness. She was a personnel management specialist and had previously worked in the Inspector General's office.